



Life Course

Childhood Resilience Factor

Brief Name

Parents with Higher Education Degrees

Indicator

Percent of births to women with an associate's degree or higher.

Description

This metric is obtained from the birth record, showing the percent of births to a mother with an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree.

WI	US	Best	Worst
44.3%*	37.7%	53.1%	26.1%
		MN	NV

Year

2014

Numerator

Number of births to a mother who had an associate's degree or higher

Denominator

Total number of births

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

Importance

Higher parental education is correlated with better parenting skills, though the exact mechanism of the relationship is not well understood. Some contributing factors include increased executive functioning in the parents, increased social support seen in those who obtained higher education, increased wages and higher socioeconomic status, and/or the ability to access high-quality health services and childcare (Desai, 1998).

Limitations

Paternal education level is also linked with child achievement but was unavailable for this report.

The impact of maternal education level may be confounded by socioeconomic status.

Source

United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2007-2014, on CDC WONDER Online Database, February 2016. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>. Desai, Sonalde, et. al. "Maternal education and child health: Is there a strong causal relationship?" Demography 35.1 (1998): 71-81.